

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-03

SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 AGRE-00 OMB-01

USIE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 OES-07 INT-05 EURE-00 /091 W

-----051648Z 018366 /50

O R 051550Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8018

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USDEL MTN GENEVA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, ECE, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD STEEL STUDY

REF: (A) OECD PARIS 13200, (B) EC BRUSSELS 4513,

(C) EC BRUSSELS 4527

1. BEFORE LEARNING OF OUTCOME OF OECD COUNCIL DISCUSSION (REF A), ECONMIN TRADE POLICY OFFICIAL KUEHN WARNED EMBOFF ON MAY 4 THAT FRG REMAINS OPPOSED TO PROPOSED STEEL STUDY AND THAT U.S. SHOULD NOT BE MISLED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FALSE IMPRESSIONS THAT COMMISSION OFFICIALS MAY HAVE CONVEYED THAT THE COMMUNITY IS PREPARED TO SUPPORT OECD STUDY. KUEHN GAVE TWO REASONS FOR GERMAN OPPOSITION, THE MOST IMPORTANT BEING CONCERN THAT THE PROPOSED STUDY COULD LEAD TO AN MFA FOR STEEL. A SECONDARY GROUND FOR OPPOSING ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AD HOC GROUP IS THAT FRG INDUSTRY POLICY OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT ANY

OECD STUDY OF THE STEEL SECTOR SHOULD BE PERFORMED
WITHIN THE OECD INDUSTRY COMMITTEE.

2. ECONMIN INDUSTRY OFFICIAL SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD US THAT
FRG AMBASSADOR TO OECD WAS IN FACT INSTRUCTED TO OPPOSE
FORMATION OF AD HOC GROUP FOR ABOVE REASONS, WITH
CAVEAT, THAT IF ISOLATED FRG SHOULD AGREE TO
PARTICIPATION. (COMMENT: MAJOR GERMAN STEEL PRODUCERS
SUCH AS THYSSEN HAVE STEADFASTLY OPPOSED MULTILATERAL
EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE THE INTERNATIONAL STEEL MARKET.
FRG RESERVATIONS REFLECT THESE INDUSTRY VIEWS.)

3. IN COMMENTING ON WHETHER AN OECD STUDY IS ACTUALLY
NEEDED, KUEHN OPINED THAT US FEARS OF A REFLUX IN TRADE
FLOWS ARE PROBABLY EXAGGERATED. HE DOUBTED THAT
ESTABLISHED TRADE PATTERNS COULD BE RADICALLY ALTERED
OVER THE SHORT-OR EVEN MEDIUM-TERM. HE THOUGHT THAT
AN OECD STUDY, IF IT COMES, WOULD SUPPORT THIS
CONTENTION. IF ACTUAL DATA SHOULD SHOW THAT TRADE
FLOWS CAN BE RADICALLY ALTERED IN SHORT ORDER, THEN
THE NEED FOR A MULTILATERAL STEEL SECTOR ARRANGEMENT
WOULD BE MUCH MORE EVIDENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, POLICIES, STEEL, STUDIES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BONN07781
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770158-0291
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770592/aaaadazi.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 80348c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 OECD PARIS 13200, 77 EC BRUSSELS 4513, 77 EC BRUSSELS 4527
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2635646
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OECD STEEL STUDY
TAGS: ETRD, GE, ECE, OECD, (KUEHN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/80348c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009